

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: North Oak Creek Pipeline, Storage and Troughs

Project No. 10-506

Region/GMU: 32

HPC: Safford

Project Type: Water storages, pipeline, and drinkers

Project Description:

This project will consist of installing 15,840 feet of black plastic 1-1/4 inch 267 psi pipe, a 5,000 gallon storage tank, three 350 gallon water troughs and two turkey troughs. The pipeline will be buried and extend from Bull Tank storage to a new storage (Buckskin) and then up to the existing, nonfunctioning 12,000 gallon storage tank at Oak Creek Dam.

This will provide a dependable water source during the summer months for wildlife in North and South Oak Creek.

With the new water line and troughs; permittee's cattle will not be as dependent upon Little Bull Tank for water resulting in improved overall grazing conditions within the Ramone and Bull Tank pastures. A small wildlife friendly fence enclosure will be built within the trap at Little Bull Tank and set aside exclusively for wildlife. This will improve habitat conditions for wildlife including the Chirichua Leopard frog.

Wildlife Species to Benefit: Turkey (45%), Whitetail Deer (30%), Bear (15%), and Mearns Quail (10%).

Possible Funding Partners: U. S. Forest Service, HPC, AGFD, Permittee, local Sportsman's Group (Southeastern Arizona Sportsman's Club)

Implementation Schedule:

Beginning: October 2011

Completed: September 2012

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$ 11,775.00

Cost Share Funds:

US Forest Service \$ 3,095.00

AGFD Heritage \$ 2,000.00

FS Permittee \$ 8,290.00

Total Project Costs: \$ 25,160.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Chuck Duncan
(please print)

Telephone: (928) 348-1964

Address:

Safford Ranger District
711 14th Avenue, Suite D
Safford AZ 85546

AGFD Contact and Phone No. John Bacorn, Unit 32. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: Wendell Bell & Cyndee Smith	Date: August 13, 2010
Applicant's signature:	Date: August 13, 2010

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC: YES

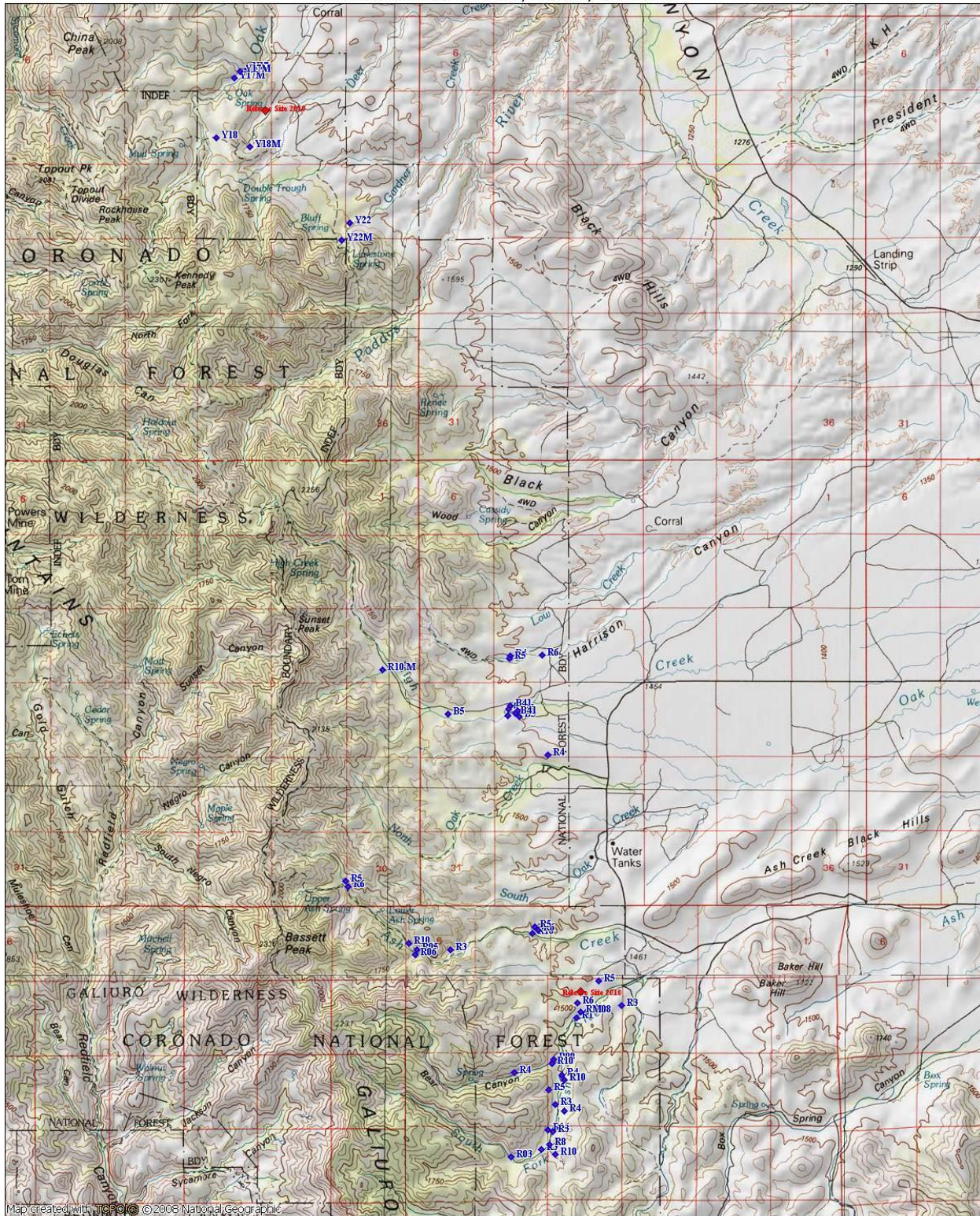
NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

A dependable water source for wildlife is lacking in North and South Oak Creek Canyons, especially North Oak. The existing water sources; Narrow Tank, Oak Creek Dam, Hurry-Up Tank, Lane Tank and Knob Tank consists of small rock/concrete dams built many years ago and no longer function as dependable year-round water sources. These tanks may hold water during wet times of the year such as winter and monsoon season, but these tanks dry and are not dependable water sources for up to 6-8 months of the year. Below is a photo of Oak Creek Dam this year in August.

Within the last two years 97 Gould's turkeys have been released in the Galiuro Mountains. This past February, 24 birds were released in Deer Creek and 24 released in South Ash Creek. Ten transmitters were attached to monitor survivability and habitat use; seven of these were at the Ash Creek site. Monitoring since February, has shown that these birds have concentrated in and around South and North Ash Creek and High Creek. Although there are two fairly dependable water tanks (Bull Tank and Little Bull Tank) within the meadow areas between Ash Creek and High Creek, habitat in between has been under-utilized by turkeys (see telemetry map). This project will provide a dependable year-round water source within this area (North Oak Creek).



GMU 32 Combined Telemetry Feb-July 2010 Birds



0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 km

TN 100°
100°
07/29/10

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Provide a year-round dependable water source for Gould's Turkey, White-tailed deer, black bear, meadow quail and other wildlife species.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Two new heavy plastic storage tanks (Bull Tank Storage and Ramon Storage), solar pump, water line and three water troughs were installed earlier this year with assistance of an ADA Grant.

This project consists of installing a new water line from the existing water line north to North Oak Creek. At North Oak Creek another new storage tank will be installed near Lane Tank. From the new storage tank (Buckskin) a water line will run up the canyon to Oak Creek Dam and tie into the old existing metal storage tank. The existing storage tank will be repaired or replaced with a new plastic storage tank if necessary. Three FS water troughs will be placed along the water line in North Oak Creek. A turkey trough (see photo) will tie into the Storage tank at Oak Creek dam and another turkey trough will tie into the Ramon Storage tank.

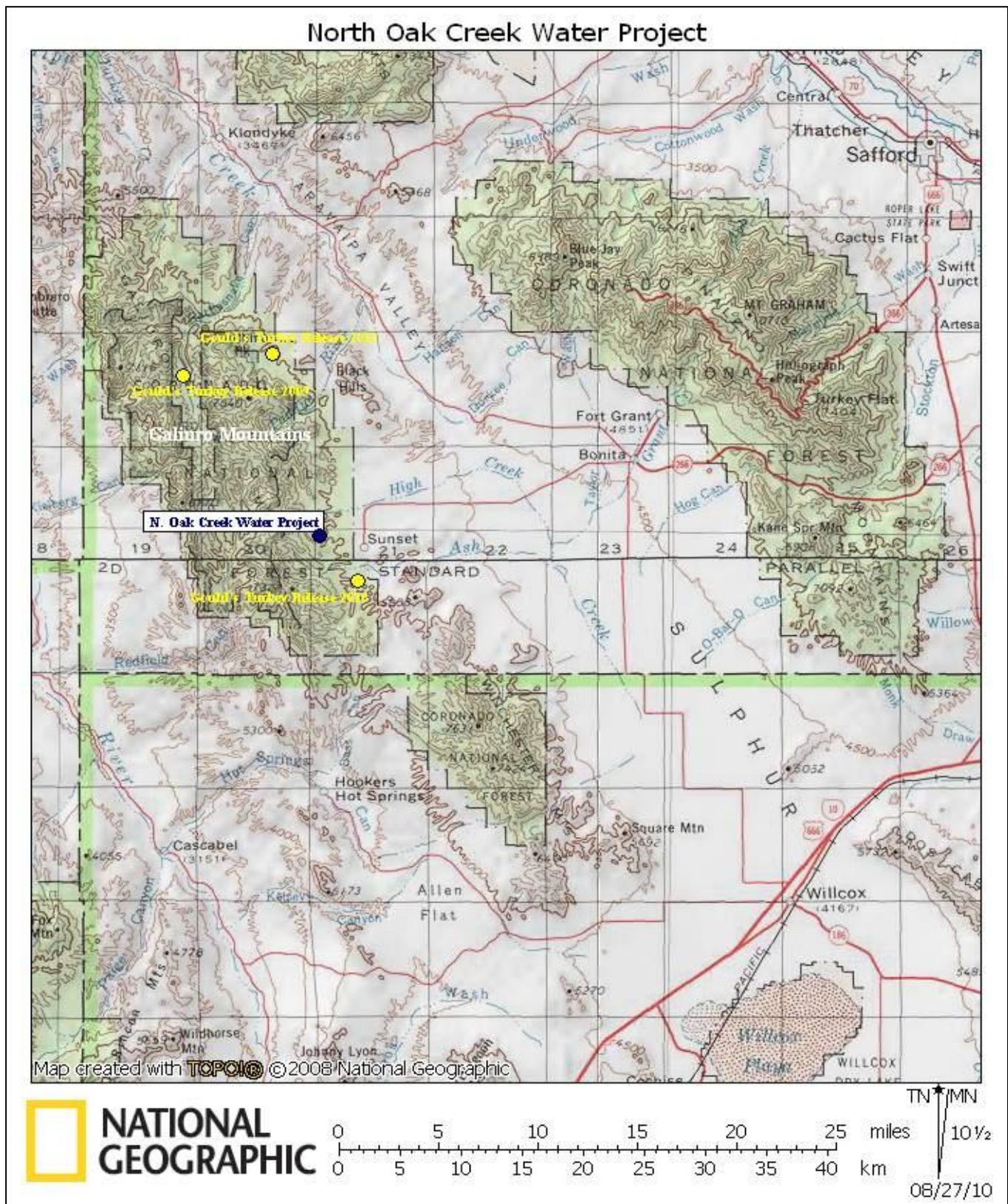
Turkey trough (20 inches high x 18 inches long x 15 inches wide)

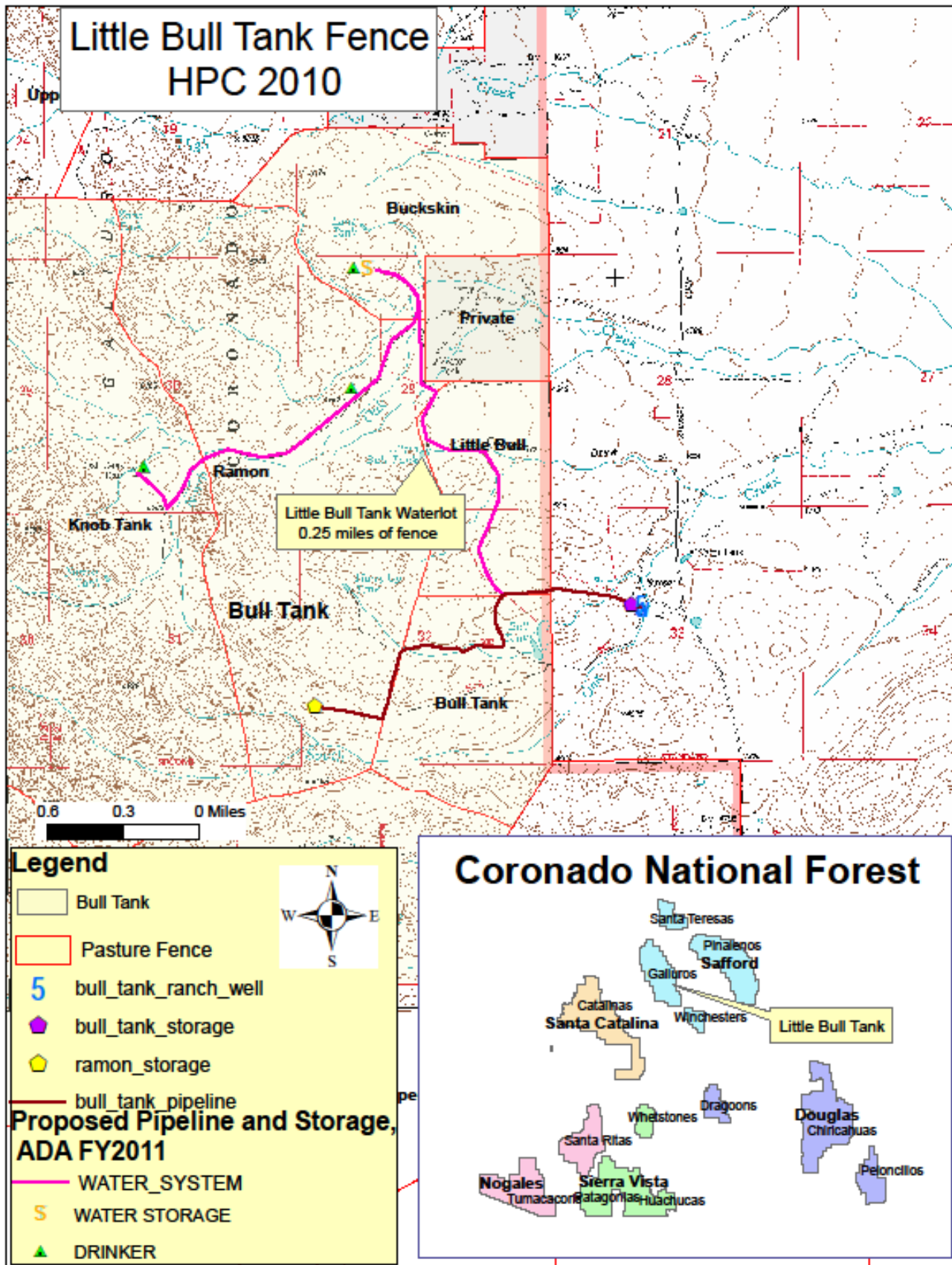


A small wildlife friendly fence enclosure will be built around both turkey troughs.

A trap will be built around Little Bull Tank (.25 miles fence) and two gates installed. A small fence enclosure will be built on one side of the trap to improve habitat conditions for Chirichua leopard frogs.

PROJECT LOCATION: R. 21 E., T. 10 S., Sections 29 (see attached map and photographs). Project site is on the Coronado National Forest, Safford Ranger District and will affect 8,502 acres. Nearby private lands are Bell's Ranch (340 acres), and the Buckskin Ranch (160 acres).





LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE: USDA Forest Service.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT? Unlimited public vehicle access is not allowed across the private property. Foot access is available from adjacent Forest Service access points. Landowner has allowed open public access in the past but due to associated issues no longer allows open public access. Limited vehicle access is allowed with permission only.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Oak grasslands with dense creek bottoms, elevations averaging 4,900 feet.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

1- Fence material and gates	=	\$ 853.00
2- Three 500-750 gallon water troughs	=	\$ 1,725.00
3- Two turkey trough and accessories	=	\$ 1,600.00
4- 16,000 ft. 1 1/4 inch black plastic pipe.	=	\$ 9,600.00
5- 1- 5,000 gallon storage tank	=	\$ 3,094.00 USFS contribution
6- Labor for installation	=	<u>\$ 8,288.00 permittee's contribution</u>
Total		\$ 25,160.00

HPC funds application: \$ 11,775.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

US Forest Service to help finance, conduct surveys, administration of project. AGFD and Permittee's will help with funding. Local Sportsman's Club may donate some labor.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: Grazing permittee will monitor the improvement as part of their Annual Operating Instructions.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Grazing permittee will be responsible for maintenance under this Term Grazing Permit. USFS and AGFD will also periodically check on the functionality of the system.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Safford Ranger District, Coronado National Forest.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet): N/A

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

PROJECT NAME: Oak Creek Water Development.

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development? Annual Implementation Schedule?”** No
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Development Branch personnel were not coordinated on; this project was initiated by the Forest Service.
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
___2-4 ___4-6 ___6-8 ___8-10 _X_10-12 ___12-14 ___14-16 ___>16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**
_X_YES (please complete #5 below) ___NO (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source: Little Bull Tank (normally good water source but has dried up once within last 10 years)
Type of water source: Dirt Tank
Ownership of water source: USFS
Distance in miles from project: one mile
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** _X_YES ___NO
(Gould’s Turkey and Chiricahua Leopard Frog).
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.** None
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): _X_2x4 vehicles ___4x4 only ___foot only**
**If foot access only: Distance in miles:

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? _X_YES ___NO

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: Vehicle access across private land is limited to permission only. Foot access from North Ash Creek and High Creek has no restrictions.
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.** Add three human & bear proof steel 500-750 gal. drinkers, Lay and bury 15,840 ft. of 1-1/4 inch (267 psi) black plastic pipe, add one 5,000 gallon storage tank.
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** _X_ Yes ___No
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.
Chuck Duncan (USFS Personnel)
John Bacorn (AGFD Personnel) August 20 and 26 2010. Met with FS Permittee on August 26.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Game Branch
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
mdisney@azgfd.gov